

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during February 2012

As of February 29, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 50 percent of average to date; runoff, 35 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 30 percent of average for the date (25 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 105 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through February 29, 2012 was about 3.0 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 36 percent of average. For comparison, on February 28, 2011, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 7.7 MAF, or about 95 percent of average.

Precipitation in February, for almost all of California, was below normal. On February 29, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 17.5 inches, which is about 50 percent of the seasonal average to date and 35 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During February, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 3.0 inches, which is about 38 percent of the monthly average. Last year on February 28, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 42.5 inches, or about 122 percent of average for the date.

On February 29, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 12.5 inches, which is about 45 percent of the seasonal average to date and 31 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During February, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 2.4 inches, which is about 35 percent of the monthly average. Last year on February 28, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 41.9 inches, or about 152 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 02/29/2012 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2011 - 2012 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2010 - 2011 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2011 - 2012
Eureka	21.06	72	26.46	91	52
Redding	13.57	54	21.87	87	39
Sacramento	5.70	42	14.45	105	31
San Francisco	7.14	40	18.17	101	30
Fresno	3.43	44	11.47	146	30
Bakersfield	2.04	46	8.14	182	32
Los Angeles	4.31	43	13.26	133	34
San Diego	6.16	81	10.51	139	60

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 02/29/2012								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,960	1,851	106	2,448	80	---	488
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,169	3,370	94	4,552	70	-1,087	1,383
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,520	2,523	100	3,538	71	-626	1,018
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	651	622	105	966	67	-145	315
Folsom Lake	American	387	554	70	977	40	-241	590
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,965	1,440	136	2,420	81	-5	455
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,514	1,435	105	2,030	75	-176	516
Lake McClure	Merced	661	536	123	1,025	64	-14	364
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	290	345	84	520	56	-146	230
Pine Flat Res	Kings	598	533	112	1,000	60	-224	402
Isabella	Kern	168	180	93	568	30	-77	400
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,722	1,759	98	2,039	84	---	317

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for March 2012, issued February 29, 2012, suggests above average precipitation for Northern California and below average precipitation for Southern California. The outlook suggests no tendency for above or below average rainfall for the central part of the State.